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# LOGBOOK

Virginia Department of Fire Programs Newsletter

Volume 5, Issue 2

## Inside This Issue:

Message From VDFP  
Executive Director

Governor's 2006 Fire  
Services Awards

Needs Assessment  
Volume III

Save the Date  
Regional Schools

Save the Date  
Adjunct & Instructor  
In-Service Dates

VFCA Expo

Calendar of Events

## From the Executive Director

Greetings from the Virginia Department of Fire Programs. Hopefully, we are in the final throngs of the winter of 2007. I sincerely hope that it has been a safe winter for your organization. Unfortunately as I draft this letter, 18 firefighters have paid the ultimate price in 2007. At this rate, we will equal 100 plus firefighter fatalities in 2007. I would like to challenge each of you to be sure that Virginia does not become a statistic for 2007. Please encourage all fire and emergency services organizations to report on the Virginia Fire Information Reporting System (VFIRS). Our unaudited fire losses for 2006 revealed the following:

- 500,507 calls
- \$ 275.2 million in direct fire losses
- 756 injuries
- 82 civilian fire deaths and one firefighter death

VDFP has commenced an analysis of the 2006 data and ways to reduce the losses, but we will be successful only with your involvement. In the ensuing months, VDFP will be providing data to each jurisdiction on the losses specifically for your response area. With that data, we ask you to look at ways to educate the public on the dangers of fires. Let's work together to "Fight Fires with Facts." Through the efforts of the Virginia Fire Services Board (VFSB), VDFP distributed 10,080 smoke detectors last year as a means of alerting individuals early of fires. On February 23, 2007, the VFSB voted to procure carbon monoxide detectors to further enhance this effort on early notification. VDFP will be advertising the grant information in the future.

Aid to Localities (ATL) distribution is progressing well, but we still have some organizations that have not filed for the FY 06 funds. If you have not filed, you have until June 30<sup>th</sup> or your organization is subject to forfeiture. FY 07 funds are also available for distribution.

VDFP has nationally registered 30,041 certifications with the Pro-Board as of January 2007. In addition, VDFP has completed the process to eliminate the use of your social security number on the Fire Service Training Records System (FSTRS). Once released in February 2007, you will log in with your first name, last name, and the last four of your SSN.

VDFP's 2006 Annual Report has been released and is available on the website. I encourage you to review what accomplishments that Virginia's Fire and Emergency Services made in 2006.

The Virginia General Assembly has just adjourned and one of the bills that will be of interest to the Fire Service is the transfer of the State Fire Marshal's Office from the Department of Housing and Community Development to the Virginia Department of Fire Programs in July 2008. More information on the transition will be provided in future publications of the Logbook.

Another area of importance is the installation of dry hydrants in the Commonwealth of Virginia. This is a joint venture between the Virginia Department of Forestry and the Virginia Department of Fire Programs. This is a golden opportunity for areas without a domestic water supply to secure a water source for firefighting purposes. If your department has an interest, please contact the Department of Forestry for an application.

VDFP Bookstore has seen a 40% increase in sales since we went online with credit cards in January. In addition, our partnership with the Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) to sell EMSA textbooks is progressing well.

Ron Collins, Division 5 Chief, has announced his retirement for March 31, 2007. We regret to see Ron leave because he's done a great job in the Tidewater Area. Godspeed Ron.

Please call or visit our division offices for your fire and emergency services training and educational needs.

W.G. Shelton Jr., CEM  
Executive Director

# Governor's 2006 Fire Services Awards

**Virginia Beach, Virginia:** – The 2006 Governor's Fire Services Awards were presented to 9 recipients in 7 categories during opening ceremonies at the Virginia Fire Chiefs Association's Expo and Symposium on Saturday, February 24 at the Virginia Beach Convention Center.

The purpose of the awards is to acknowledge excellence in Virginia's fire service in both the public and private sector. The Virginia Fire Services Board Executive Committee reviewed and scored all nominations and selected the recipients in each category. Their recommendations were then forwarded to Governor Kaine through the Secretary of Public Safety for final approval.

Awards were presented to the recipients in the following categories.

**Award:** Excellence in Virginia's Fire Service

**Recipient:** Lt. Keith Allen Higgs, Stanley Volunteer Fire Department

**Award:** Excellence in Virginia Fire & Life Safety Education

**Recipient:** Catharine Meredith, Virginia Beach Fire Department

**Award:** Excellence in Virginia Fire Service Management

**Recipient:** Chief Charles L. Werner, Ruckersville Volunteer Fire Company

**Award:** Outstanding Fire Department Response

**Recipient:** Hanover County Fire-EMS Department (accepting-Chief Fred Crosby)

**Award:** Excellence in Virginia's Fire Service Training

**Recipients:** Larry J. Cochran, Virginia Department of Forestry

The Roanoke Fire-EMS Training Division Staff (accepting Deputy Chief David Hoback)

**Award:** Excellence in Private Sector Virginia Fire Services Support

**Recipients:** Virginia Propane Gas Association

Drs. Jeff & Nancy Barker, Barker Chiropractic Clinic

(accepting-Chief Richard Burch, Roanoke Fire-EMS))

**Award:** Civilian Lifesaving Award

**Recipient:** Randy Neff, Montpelier, Virginia

(accepting-Chief Fred Crosby, Hanover County Fire-EMS)

This year marked the fifth anniversary of the Governor's Virginia Fire Services Awards which were established in 2002 and are presented annually at the Virginia Fire Chiefs Association Expo and Symposium. The Honorable John W. Marshall, Secretary of Public Safety addressed the attendees and guests during opening ceremonies. He was assisted in presenting the 2006 Governor's Fire Services Awards by W.G. "Billy" Shelton Jr., Executive Director of the Virginia Department of Fire Programs, Thomas C. Fuqua, Chairman of the Virginia Fire Services Board, and Willie C. Howlett, President of the Virginia Fire Chiefs Association.

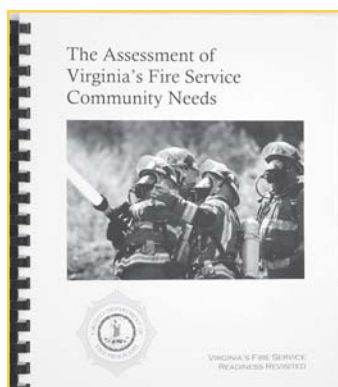
For additional information on the 2006 Governor's Fire Service Awards and this year's recipients, contact Mark L. Buff, Marketing and Communications Manager for the Virginia Department of Fire Programs at 804-249-1965 or [mark.buff@vdfp.virginia.gov](mailto:mark.buff@vdfp.virginia.gov).



## Virginia Fire Service Needs Assessment Volume III

The Virginia Department of Fire Programs (VDFP) recently released the third edition of the Virginia Fire Service Needs Assessment.

The first Virginia Fire Service Needs Assessment was released in January 2004. A supplement was released later that year. The second volume of the Virginia Fire Service Needs Assessment was released in January 2006, comprised of data gathered from a follow-up survey conducted in the fall of 2005.



Volume III, released in January 2007, focuses on the efforts of Virginia's Fire Service to identify voids in technical services, training, and continued needs for state-of-the-art equipment to adequately perform the duties of the Emergency First Responder.

This year's Needs Assessment identified the three most pressing needs as apparatus, staffing and training.

The goal of this annual needs assessment is to continue providing members of the Virginia General Assembly with timely and adequate information they need to make informed decisions regarding legislation and funding issues for Virginia's Fire Services.

The full report may be viewed at [http://www.vafire.com/government\\_affairs](http://www.vafire.com/government_affairs).

## Save the Date Regional Schools

### Division 1

4/14-15 Caroline County Regional Fire School

### Division 2

4/28-29 Rockingham County Regional School

### Division 3

3/24-25 Albemarle County Regional School

### Division 4

5/19-20 Pulaski County Regional Fire School

### Division 5

3/31-4/1 Southampton Regional Fire School  
5/14-19 Shipboard Firefighting for Land Based FF

### Division 6

4/21-22 Danville/Pittsylvania Co. Regional School  
5/5-6 Henry Co/Martinsville Training Weekend  
7/20-22 VA Fire Instructor College - Salem, VA

### Statewide

6/9 HTR Specialist Testing Training Session  
6/22-24 HTR Specialist Testing

## 2007 Adjunct & Instructor In-service Dates

### Division 1

4/14 Caroline Regional Fire School, 19155  
Rogers Clark Blvd, Milford, VA  
10/13 Chesterfield County Training Center,  
6610 Public Safety Way, Chesterfield, VA

### Division 2

5/19 VDFP Division 2 Office, Orange, VA  
10/27 Winchester Regional School, Dowell J. Howard,  
VoTech School, 156 Dowell J. Circle, Winchester, VA

### Division 3

4/28 Central Virginia Fire Training Center, Lynchburg  
Training Drive, Lynchburg, VA  
12/15 VDFP Division 3 Office, Farmville, VA

### Division 4

6/9 Dublin Fire Dept., 105 Trinkle Ave., Dublin, VA  
11/3 Abingdon Volunteer Fire Dept., 316 Park Street,  
Abingdon, VA

### Division 5

3/31 Paul D. Camp Community College, Franklin, VA  
6/21 Norfolk Fire Training Center, 7120 Granby Street,  
Norfolk, VA

### Division 6

7/21 Roanoke College (Fire Instructor College), North  
Market Street, Salem, VA  
9/15 Roanoke Valley Regional Training Center, 1220  
Kessler Mill Road, Salem, VA

### Division 7

4/18 Loudoun County Training Center, 1600 Courage  
Court, Leesburg, VA  
9/29 Prince William County Training Center, 13101  
Public Safety Drive, Nokesville, VA



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**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**March**

Southwest Virginia Fire Investigators Association  
sponsors a day with David Diamantes  
March 12, 2007

Roanoke Valley Regional Fire/EMS Training Facility  
Fire Protection Training Seminar  
March 13-15, 2007  
Norfolk Fire Training Center, Norfolk, VA

Secretary of Public Safety hosts 3rd Annual "Public  
Safety Supplier Diversity Fair" for Small, Women, and  
Minority Owned Businesses  
March 27, 2007 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Wyndham Roanoke Hotel, Roanoke, VA

**April**

Virginia Fire Services Board Meeting  
April 11-13, 2007  
Charlottesville, VA

**May**

VDEM/VD FP Stakeholder Summit  
May 2, 2007  
Roanoke, VA

**June**

Virginia Fallen Firefighter Memorial Service  
June 2, 2007  
Richmond International Raceway Horticulture Garden

**Visit [www.vafire.com](http://www.vafire.com) to view additional events.**



**VFCA 2007 Expo & Symposium**

Our thanks to all of you who took time out of  
your busy schedules to drop by our booth.

We hope you enjoyed the conference as much  
as we did and we look forward to seeing you  
again next year, if not sooner!